

**§ 21.47 Depredation order for double-crested cormorants at aquaculture facilities.**

The Service examined the rule under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and found that it does contain information collection requirements. OMB has issued the following emergency information collection number, 1018–0097, which expires on August 31, 1998. Information collection is required to better enable the Service to assess the benefits of the depredation order on aquaculturists and to assess impacts to the double-crested cormorant population. Burden hours to aquaculturists are calculated as follows: an average of 41 birds may be taken by each of some 2,200 aquaculturists per season. An estimated total of 800 hours will be required to keep and maintain the monthly logs, and produce the logs for inspection, yielding an average of 22 minutes per aquaculturists per year. Landowners, operators, and tenants actually engaged in the production of commercial freshwater aquaculture stocks (or their employees or agents) in the States of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas may, without a Federal permit, take double-crested cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) when found committing or about to commit depredations to aquaculture stocks on the premises used for the production of such stocks: Provided that:

(a) Double-crested cormorants may be taken by shooting during daylight hours only, and only when necessary to protect freshwater commercial aquaculture and State-operated hatchery stocks from depredation; none of the birds so taken may be sold; and all dead birds must be buried or incinerated, except that any specimens needed for scientific purposes as determined by the Director must not be destroyed, and information on birds carrying metal leg bands may be submitted to the Bird Banding Laboratory by means of a toll-free telephone number at 1–800–327–BAND (or 2263).

(b) Double-crested cormorants may be shot at freshwater commercial aquaculture facilities or State-operated hatcheries only in conjunction with an

established non-lethal harassment program as certified by officials of the Wildlife Services' program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

(c) Double-crested cormorants may be taken with firearms only within the boundaries of freshwater commercial aquaculture facilities or State-operated hatcheries, and persons using shotguns are required to use nontoxic shot.

(d) Persons operating under the provisions of this section may use decoys, taped calls, or other devices to lure birds committing or about to commit depredations within gun range.

(e) Any person exercising the privileges of this section must keep and maintain a log recording the date and number of all birds killed each month under this authorization, that the log must be maintained for a period of three years (and that three previous years of takings must be maintained at all times thereafter), that the log and any related records be made available to Federal or State wildlife enforcement officers upon request during normal business hours.

(f) Nothing in this section authorizes the killing of double-crested cormorants contrary to the laws or regulations of any State, and none of the privileges of this section may be exercised unless the person possesses the appropriate State permits, when required; nor the killing of any migratory bird species other than double-crested cormorants when committing or about to commit depredations to aquaculture stocks.

(g) The authority granted in this section will automatically expire on April 30, 2005, unless revoked or specifically extended prior to that date.

[63 FR 10560, Mar. 4, 1998]

**PART 22—EAGLE PERMITS**

**Subpart A—Introduction**

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